UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,673	08/14/2001	Mark B. Whipple	020431.0729	3212

53184 7590 07/05/2006	EXAMINER
i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC. ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD DALLAS, TX 75234	PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/930,673	WHIPPLE ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Ashok B. Patel	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 April 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) *1 and 14* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2-13 and 15-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-27 are subject to examination. Claims 1 and 14 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as
> set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented
> and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10, 13-17, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Braddy (US 6, 304, 967 B1) in view of Hobbs (US 6,

523, 022 B1)

Referring to claims 2 and 13,

Braddy teaches a computer-implemented system for facilitating communication in a

distributed network environment (Fig. 4), the system comprising:

a request broker, implemented as a is implemented as a servlet operating at a

web server within a hub system (Fig. 4, element 90, col. 11, line 57-67, "The Request

Broker 90 is implemented as a server side plug-in module interfacing with the web

server program 64 through the web server plug-in API 65. As such, the Request Broker

90 operates inside the web server process, sharing both address space and thread of

execution with the overall web server program 64. When the web server program 64 receives a request from a web browser 42, 44, 46, and 48 over the Internet or network 50, the web server program 64 passes the request to the Request Broker 90 which handles further processing of the request.")operable to:

receive a network application program interface (API) request component from one or more clients within the distributed network environment, the one or more clients located remote from the hub system (Fig. 4, elements 42, 44....48, 50, 52, 72 and 74, col. 8, line 19-23, "The Request Broker 90 is a computer program that runs on web server computer system 52. The Application Server 92 is a computer program that runs on one or more of the secondary application server computer systems 72, 74.", 26-29, "Server computer systems 52,72,74 may be of different types in that the present invention is computing platform independent.", 34-42, "As such, the client computer systems 42, 44, 46, and 48 connected to the first network 50 are running conventional web browser programs, and web server computer system 52 is running a conventional web server program 64. Web servers typically support "plug-ins" or application programming interfaces (API) enabling their basic functionality to be extended by software programs, typically called "plug-ins," that use the web server API to perform functions within the web server software.", 46-51, "The Request Broker 90 determines how to optimally route information requests received by the web server computer system 52, enabling requests to execute locally on the web server computer system 52 or remotely on one or more secondary application server computer systems 72, 74."), the network API request component comprising a description of a system API method to

be called and one or more parameters to be used in executing the system API method, the parameters having one of a plurality of acceptable native formats;

determine the native format of the parameters; communicate the parameters in the native format to a selected one of a plurality of translators for translation of the parameters from the native format to an internal format, each translator being associated with a different native format; and communicate the parameters in the internal format to an application server to enable execution of the system API method according to the parameters (Fig. 7, col. 10, line 28-37, "Category "File Types" 82 in the Request Broker configuration file contains information identifying the different request file extensions that the Request Broker 90 is configured to handle. For example, the Request Broker 90 may be configured to handle requests that involve the execution of files with different file extensions, such as ".exe" for executable program files, ".pl" for Perl program files, ".cgi" for CGI program files, ".bat" for batch program files, or ".asp" for Active Server Page files.", col. 12, line 21-31, "As shown in FIG. 8b, the determination of whether the Request Broker 90 will handle the incoming request in step 208 has a number of steps. The Adapter 100 examines the incoming request and examines the Request Broker's configuration information to determine whether the Request Broker 90 is configured to handle the processing of the request. In step 216, the Adapter 100 examines the Request Broker configuration file to determine whether the Request Broker 90 is enabled to handle requests from the web server program 64.", col. 12, line 54-56, "If the request's file extension is supported by the Request Broker 90, then the Adapter 100 continues to step 222.", col. 12, line 65-col. 13, line 13,

"Otherwise, the Adapter 100 continues on to step 212, <u>where the request, and its</u>

<u>parameters, are converted from the web server API request data format into new</u>

<u>request "package" information format for continued processing in the Request Broker</u>

<u>90.</u> This new request "package" data format is merely a data structure format used by

the preferred embodiment of the present invention to facilitate processing of the request

throughout the program modules of the preferred embodiment. The re-formatting of the

request allows for more efficient and transparent processing of the request because

different types of requests may be received from the web server program 64.

Reformatting the incoming request to a consistent format allows different types of

requests to be handled in the same manner within the preferred embodiment.", col. 17,

line 52-60, **Note:** Broker's file configurations are translators); and

the application server system, operable to receive the parameters from the

request broker in the internal format, generate a return value reflecting execution of the

system API method according to the parameters, and communicate the return value to

the request broker in the internal format (col. 17, line 52-60, Fig. 14, col. 23, line 12-15,

34-44)

the request broker further operable to receive the return value from the

application server system in the internal format, communicate the return value in the

internal format to the selected translator for translation of the return value from the

internal format to the native format, generate a network API reply component that

comprises the description of the system API method that was called and the return

value in the native format, and communicate the network API reply component to the

one or more clients. (col. 13, line 12-18, "As will be shown in a later step, after the request has been processed, the request "reply" format will be converted back to the request's original type of data format for transmission to the web browser 42, 44, 46, and 48 originating the request. This allows the preferred embodiment of the present invention to be easily adapted or modified to handle new or different data request formats.", col. 13, line 22-30, "Referring to FIG. 8c, after the request has been processed by the Broker Manager 102, in step 224, the results of the request (the request reply "package") are sent from the Broker Manager 102 and received by the Adapter 100. In step 226, the request reply "package" data format is converted back into the web server's original API request format, stored in a request reply buffer (not shown), and transmitted back to the web browser client 42,44,46,48 that originated the request.");

Interestingly enough to a one having ordinary skill in the art, Braddy provides firewall and security between web server and application servers as indicated in Fig. 17, col. 26, line 21-34 and col. 24, line 59-65, concurrently Braddy fails to teach wherein a request broker operating at a Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTPS) web server; and the network API request and network API reply components comprise Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) containers communicated over the Internet in HTTPS messages and a system firewall having a plurality of ports, the system maintaining at least one port of the system firewall open for communication with the client, the client initiating a connection to the system through the at least one open port of the system firewall to communicate the network API request component to the

request broker, independent of any port of a client firewall being open for communication with the system.

Hobbs teaches in col. 21, line66 through col. 22, line 5," The Java Servlet API also permits the servers and client to establish end to end (browser to Application Server to Database Server and back) channel security through Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) or Secure HyperText Transport Protocol (S-HTTP). It would also encrypt all data passing from the client to the Application Server and from the Application Server to the Database Server."(the request broker is implemented as a servlet operating at a Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTPS) web server; and the network API request and network API reply components comprise Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) containers communicated over the Internet in HTTPS messages and further comprising a system firewall having a plurality of ports, the system maintaining at least one port of the system firewall open for communication with the client, the client initiating a connection to the system through the at least one open port of the system firewall to communicate the network API request component to the request broker, independent of any port of a client firewall being open for communication with the system., Communicating MIME containers is well known in art wherein MIME is part of HTTP, and both Web browsers and HTTP servers., It is also well known in art to have port 443 as a default listening port for HTTPS).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Braddy and Hobbs in front of him at the time of invention was made, to incorporate the teachings of Hobbs into Braddy's web server such that the

access to servers may be restricted to particular clients providing not only firewall between it's web server and application servers but also to the web server from the network 50 of Fig. 4.

This would have been obvious also since Hobb's teaching itself prophesizes "The Java Servlet API also permits the servers and client to establish end to end (browser to Application Server to Database Server and back) channel security through Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) or Secure HyperText Transport Protocol (S-HTTP). It would also encrypt all data passing from the client to the Application Server and from the Application Server to the Database Server." This basically solves the problem thoroughly that is raised by Braddy in col. 5, line 14-24.

Referring to claim 3 and 4,

Braddy teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the one or more clients comprises at least one of a remote application, a remote spoke, and a remote hub system, and the system of claim 1, wherein the request broker is a component of an electronic marketplace, the one or more clients are remote from the electronic marketplace, and the one or more clients comprise at least one of a remote enterprise application, a remote spoke, and a remote electronic marketplace. (Fig. 1, col. 5, line 14-24, col. 1, line 34-50, col. 3, line 15-36)

Referring to claim 6,

Braddy teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the system API method is called using a synchronous method invocation semantic. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 7,

Braddy teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the application server system (Fig. 14) comprises an application server (Fig. 14, element 92) and a plurality of associated adapters , the request broker communicating the parameters in the internal format to a selected one of the plurality of adapters to enable execution of the system API method according to the parameters, the selected adapter being operable to: receive the parameters from the request broker in the internal format; communicate the parameters to the application server in the internal format for execution of the system API method according to the parameters; receive the return value from the application server reflecting execution of the system API method according to the parameters; and communicate the return value to the request broker in the internal format. (col. 22, line 9 –col. 23, line 21, Note: Filters (Fig. 14, elements 412) are adapters.)

Referring to claim 10,

Braddy teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the network API reply comprises a format field describing how to interpret the return value and corresponding to the selected translator (col. 13, line 22-30, line 12-18, col. 17, line 52-60, Fig. 14, col. 23, line 12-15, 34-44).

Referring to claims 15 and 26,

Claims 15 and 26 are claims to computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claims 2 and 13. Therefore, claims 15 and 26 are rejected for the reasons set forth for claims 2 and 13.

Referring to claims 16 and 17,

Claims 16 and 17 are claims to computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claims 3 and 4. Therefore, claims 16 and 17 are rejected for the reasons set forth for claims 3 and 4.

Referring to claim 19,

Claim 19 is a claim to a computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claim 6. Therefore, claim 19 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 6.

Referring to claim 20,

Claim 20 is a claim to a computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claim 7. Therefore, claim 20 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 7.

Referring to claim 23,

Claim 23 is a claim to a computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claim 10. Therefore, claim 23 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 10.

Referring to claim 27,

Claim 27 is a claim to a system identified in claim 1. Claim 1 identifies the means associated with the system limitations of claim 27. Therefore, claim 27 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

5.   Claims 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braddy (US 6, 304, 967 B1) in view of Hobbs (US 6, 523, 022 B1) as applied to claims 2 and 13 above, and further in view of Cooper et al. (hereinafter Cooper) (US 2003/0121000 A1).

Referring to claim 5,

Keeping in mind the teachings of Braddy and Hobbs as stated above, both references fail to explicitly teach wherein: the plurality of acceptable native formats comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and serialized object formats; and the internal format comprises serialized object format, the parameters being converted into serialized object classes by the selected translator.

Cooper teaches these elements in paragraphs [0043], [0045], [0071]-[0073].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Braddy, Hobbs and Cooper in front of him at the time of invention was made, to incorporate the teachings of Cooper into Braddy's request broker along with Hobb's teachings such that it would be useful to have a method for adapting well-known APIs in some manner for use as a Web-based page description language. It would be particularly advantageous for the method to provide the ability to produce documents that conform with evolving markup language processing standards as taught by Cooper.

Referring to claim 18,

Claim 18 is a claim to a computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claim 5. Therefore, claim 18 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 5.

6.   Claims 8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braddy (US 6, 304, 967 B1) in view of Hobbs (US 6, 523, 022 B1) as applied to claims 2 and 13 above, and further in view of Gervais et al. (hereinafter Gervais) (US 6, 381, 579).

Referring to claim 8,

Keeping in mind the teachings of Braddy and Hobbs as sated above, both references fail to explicitly teach the system of claim 13, wherein the application server system supports one or more applications comprising at least a collaborative planning application operable to provide planning data for one or more clients within a supply chain.

Gervais does "Provide an electronic-business-to-electronic-business portal that organizes the access to extended business applications. A method allows end users to access a server using standard Web browsers, and then view their own customized menu of applications. Enhanced security and administrative tools allow this portal to be shared throughout enterprises and across supply chains, providing secure access to collaborative applications by business partners and suppliers. (Abstract). Thereby the reference teaches the application server system supports one or more applications comprising at least a collaborative planning application operable to provide planning data for one or more clients within a supply chain.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to incorporate the teachings of the reference Gervais into Braddy's request broker along with the teachings of Hobbs such that it provides a common infrastructure for application administration, security management, and directory use, which can help reduce information technology (IT) costs and speed solution deployment as taught by Gervais. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 21,

Claim 21 is a claim to a computer implemented method that is carried out by the system

of claim 8. Therefore, claim 21 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 8.

7.   Claims 9, 11, 12, 22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Braddy (US 6, 304, 967 B1) (US 5, 329, 619) in view of Hobbs (US

6, 523, 022 B1) as applied to claims 2 and 13 above, and further in view of in view of

Lam et al. (hereinafter Lam) (US 5, 926, 636).

Referring to claims 9, 11 and 12,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the references Braddy and Hobbs as stated

above, both references fail to teach wherein the network API request component and

network API reply component each comprise a version identifier indicating the version

of the network API request component and network API reply component being used,

and wherein the network API reply comprises a deprecation notice indicating to the one

or more clients that the system API method that was called should not be further used,

and wherein the request broker is further operable to generate a network API exception

component based on an exception occurring in connection with execution of a second

system API method called based on a network API request component received from a

second client, the network API exception component comprising a description of the

second system API method, a description of the exception, and a deprecation notice

indicating to the second client that the second system API method should not be further

used.

Lam teaches "the network API request component and network API reply

component each comprise a version identifier indicating the version of the network API

request component and network API reply component being used. (Abstract). The reference also teaches wherein the network API reply comprises a deprecation notice indicating to the client that the system API method that was called should not be further used, and wherein the request broker is further operable to generate a network API exception component based on an exception occurring in connection with execution of a second system API method called based on a network API request component received from a second client, the network API exception component comprising a description of the second system API method, a description of the exception, and a deprecation notice indicating to the second client that the second system API method should not be further used. (Abstract, col. 8, lines 4-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to incorporate the teachings of the reference Lam into Braddy's request broker long with the teachings of Hobbs such that the server component management application programming interface reads a field in the message to determine whether an addressing format of the client computer is compatible with an addressing format of the server computer. If the addressing formats are not compatible, the server component management application programming interface converts the message to an addressing format compatible with the server computer.

Referring to claims 22, 24 and 25,

Claims 22, 24 and 25 are claims to computer implemented method that is carried out by the system of claims 9, 11 and 12. Therefore, claims 22, 24 and 25 are rejected for the reasons set forth for claims 9, 11 and 12.

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

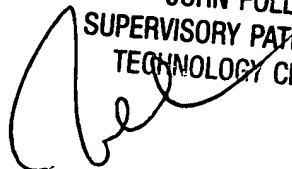**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp
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JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100